

MONTREAL BUILDING OF THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

Beauty of its Massively Proportioned Facade and Rich Simplicity of its Interior—Conveniences of Accommodation Provided for Staff and Public—Fire Protective Features—Building is a Mile-Stone marking Montreal's Continued Business Development.

Not always are the lines of classic architecture successfully adapted to new-world uses. But success has notably attended the efforts of Messrs. Darling and Pearson in designing the recently completed home of the Montreal branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. That the St. James St. front of this massive building presents one of the most satisfying facades in North America is not undiscriminating praise. The six Corinthian columns, with two outer pilasters, each sixty feet in height and eight feet in diameter, are surmounted by a boldly proportioned frieze and cornice. The frontage of the building on St. James Street is about 120 feet, its depth to Fortification lane measuring some 110 feet. As giving some idea of the massiveness of the columns which front the ample entrance way to the building, it may be mentioned that the blocks of which the colonnade is formed average about twenty-six tons each. The colonnade forms a loggia with a screen wall of granite, setting back fifteen feet from the street line. The blocks on the screen wall vary in thickness from two feet to two feet and three-quarters.

A Magnificent Interior.

The main doors of the building are of plain beaten bronze, passing through which the visitor to the bank enters into the main counting room, which is 115 feet long, 70 feet wide and 67 feet high—its spaciousness being broken by no supporting pillars. Finely modelled Corinthian pilasters adorn the end walls and a series of magnificent windows is effectively spaced along the north side. On the opposite side of the wall there are no windows, but glass doors leading from the Board Room and Directors' Room. Outside each door is a small bronze balcony, trimmed with brown plush and floored with rubber matting. The main wall surfaces of the interior are finished in Caen stone with decorations in *alto relievo*. The effect is one of rare beauty—subdued, not garish, in its tint effect of light sandstone hue. The flooring on the customers' side of the counting room is of marble blocks. Behind the banking counters the flooring is covered with cork blocks, making a noiseless and restful footing.

The furnishings of the room, like all else about the building, are characterized by "beauty in simplicity." The grill work dividing the counting room is of beaten bronze. The desks are of teak wood, with trimmings of old gold.

There are five vaults in the building, the safety deposit vault being seventeen and one-quarter feet wide by forty-eight feet in depth.

To protect the valuables contained therein the specie vault doors have been constructed of extreme solidity. They are six inches thick, composed of alternate layers of hard and soft steel. The doors are locked with the usual double acting combination bolts and triple chronometer timelock. The locking bolts are of solid round machine steel, two and one-half inches in thickness. Over this lockwork is a door of heavy plate glass. The door is hung on im-

proved scroll crane hinges with ball and roller bearings, closed with double eccentric lever bars, operated by hand wheels, working worm and gear wheels. The door closes on two rows of rubber packings, hermetically sealing it against any known explosives. The total weight of the doors is ten and one-half tons. The weight of the doors and their lining is thirty tons.

Lighting and Ventilation.

Six trusses span the banking room to support the roof and ceiling. There is a skylight situated directly over the room 90 feet long by forty-seven feet in width of ground glass, trimmed with stained glass. Beyond this, there is a second skylight situated fifteen feet above the one seen from the banking room. The light is toned so that on the duldest or brightest day there is practically no change in the light of the room. The massive electric light fixtures of the main room are placed on four marble pillars at different parts of the room. One large light in each of these is surrounded by a spray of lights of lesser power. On the walls, also, are lights of similar pattern, the fastenings being of heavy bronzed links.

Not only has unusual care been displayed in lighting arrangements, but the matter of ventilation has been treated with notable success. The air is drawn from above the roof and then is literally washed and dried. Heated in winter and cooled in summer, the air in every room can be regulated as to temperature by the mere pressing of a button.

In addition to private offices for the manager and other officers of the bank, the main floor has a sort of reception and writing room for customers of the bank. This large room has furnishings of dark mahogany with wall covering of leather. Desks and chairs are scattered about, and the room is certain to meet with much favour from out-of-town depositors and customers of the bank.

The Floors Above.

On the first floor of the building is situated the Board Room—a large, well-lighted apartment with long table and handsomely upholstered chairs. The lights, as in the manager's office, are clustered in the shape of a candelabra. Directly off the Board Room is the Directors' Room, somewhat smaller. Large halls extend through the second and third floors and no decision has yet been announced as to the use to which these apartments will be put. The work on the fourth floor is not altogether completed as yet. It is the intention of the management to have this storey used for rooms in which the clerks of the institution may have their lodgings. The fifth floor contains the janitor's apartments, the scullery and the lunch room. On this floor there will be a dining hall, for use of the employees of the bank. Access to the different floors will be made easy by the use of the electric passenger elevator.

Fire Preventive Features.

The building is about as nearly fire-proof as the ingenuity of man can contrive. The walls are of solid masonry. The furring is of tile and terra cotta, the plastering of cement, the only wood in use being that which was necessary to fasten some trim and wood flooring. The windows opening on the lane are protected by a water curtain. Also it will be possible to throw a curtain of water over the entire back and front of the building in case of